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Fifth Meeting of the Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries

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REVIEW OF ECA ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN 1984 AND THOSE PLANNED FOR 1985 AND THE 1986-1987 BIENNIUM WORK PROGRAMME IN FAVOUR OF THE AFRICAN LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In the context of ECA Resolution 397(XV) and paragraph 125 of the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) for the 1980s for the LDCs, the Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries was instituted as a subsidiary organ of the Commission with a mandate to co-ordinate, monitor and follow-up on the implementation of the SNPA in the African region, and to devise strategies and policies concomittant with the objectives and priorities of the programme in order to ensure its fullest implementation at the country and regional levels. At the secretariat level of the Commission, the necessary structural changes were consequently effected by the creation of an LDCs Section within the Socio-economic Research and Planning Division whose functions are back-stopped by an ECA Inter-divisional Committee on LDCs responsible for the co-ordination of all regular core and sectoral programmes of assistance to the African Least Developed Countries.

2. After the Paris Conference on LDCs in September 1981, the Secretariat prepared a special programme of work for the biennia 1982-1983,* 1984-1985* and 1986-1987, as an ECA input into the implementation process and it took cognizance of the peculiar socio-economic characteristics and special needs of the African least developed countries. The main features of the core programme include: (i) technical assistance and advisory services in planning, programming and project design and preparation; (ii) annual review of the economic and social conditions which deals with country-specific economic reports and regional appraisal of the macro- and sectoral growth trends and economic performance, with emphasis on major problems encountered and policies pursued in the countries; (iii) monitoring and follow-up of the implementation of the SNPA which entails an analysis of the progress achieved, problems encountered and prospects, especially in international resource flow and other support measures to the African LDCs in the context of Chapters I and II of the programme, (iv) in-depth project studies, which assumes either a country-case approach or regional coverage, on priority subjects identified by the African LDCs ministerial conference or subjects built into the programme of work of the secretariat; and (v) the organization and servicing of the annual meetings of the intergovernmental committe of experts and conference of ministers of African LDCs. These meetings provide a fora for a concerted approach to be adopted on issues of either global or critical nature to the African LDCs

3. The various Substantive Divisions of the Secretariat, under the umbrella of the ECA Inter-divisional Committee, also provide technical assistance and advisory services in sectors within their competence (i.e. Food and Agriculture, Industry, Transport and Communications, Trade and Finance, Natural Resources including Energy and Science and Technology, Social and Environmental Development, Public Administration, Management and Manpower Development and the Promotion of the Role of Women in Development; etc.).

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*The 1982-1983 and 1984-1985 Biennia programmes of work were approved by the second and third meetings of the Conference of Ministers of African LDCs in Tripoli (Libya), April, 1982 and Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), April, 1983, respectively.

4. The objectives of this paper is to highlight the activities undertaken during 1984, (and in some cases,in 1982 and 1983) and those planned for 1985 under the core programme. A brief summary of other sectoral Technical Assistance and Advisory Services provided by the ECA substantive Divisions will be given, to be followed by a synopsis of the 1986-1987 core programme of work, for the endorsement of the Conference.

II. OPERATIONAL WORK PROGRAMME IN 1984

II.1 Review of Economic and Social Conditions in African LDCs, 1981-1984

5. Within the framework of the core programme (subprogramme 3: LDCs) for the 1984-1985 biennium, the Secretariat had prepared the "Review of Economic and Social Conditions in African Least Developed Countries, 1981-1984" which is presented in Document E/ECA/LDCs.5/2. The paper, covering a four-year span since the adoption of the SNPA, reviews the macro-economic and sectoral growth trends and overall socio-economic and development performance of the African LDCs, individually, and as a group. In the country-specific economic briefs that preced the regional review, particular emphasis has been placed on the major socio-economic problems encountered and the policies enunciated by the countries with a view to restoring the necessary balances in their respective economies.

II.2 Regional Evaluation and Assessment of the Implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action in African Least Developed Countries, 1981-1984

6. The General Assembly in Resolution 38/195 of 20 December, 1983 and the ECA Conference of Ministers in Resolution 503(XIX) urged all least developed countries and concerned organizations to make adequate preparations for the global mid-term Review of the Substantial New Programme of Action in order to make practical proposals for the adjustment of the programme so as to ensure its fullest implementation during the second half of the 1980s. As part of the preparation process which borders on the decisions and recommendations of the Third Inter-Agency Consultations on the SNPA of organizations of the UN System (Geneva, April, 1984) and within the framework of subprogramme element 3.3 of the 1984-1985 biennium work programme, the ECA Secretariat prepared a study entitled "Regional Evaluation and Assessment of the Substantial New Programme of Action in African least developed countries, 1981-1984", which is presented in document E/ECA/LDCs.5/3 to the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the African LDCs and the Twentieth Session of the Commission/ eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers.

7. The paper undertakes to evaluate and assess the various aspects of the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) and to see to what extent the programme has been implemented in the African LDCs since its adoption in the 1981, especially with

regards to the attainment of the targets set by the SNPA on the macro-economic and sectoral growth rates at the country level, and the achievements of the international community with respect to external resources flow to the African LDCs, particularly the attainment of 0.15 per cent of donor GNP as official development assistance (ODA) by 1985. Against the background of an overview of the general development and recent economic performance in the African LDCs, the paper discusses the most important national measures taken in the course of implementing the SNPA including aid co-ordination mechanisms and offers some proposals on the need for the adjustments of the programme in order to ensure its fullest implementation in the remaining years of the 1980s.

II.3 The Extent of Industrial Capacity Under-utilization and its Impact on Industrial Development in African LDCs

8. Under subprogramme element 3.4, the Secretariat prepared a study on "The extent of Industrial Capacity Under-utilization and its impact on industrial development in African least developed countries" which is submitted to the conference in document E/ECA/LDCs.5/4. The objective of the study is to propose ways and means for improving and increasing industrial capacity utilization in African LDCs. The document analyses some country evidences of industrial capacity under-utilization in African LDCs; the causes and nature of the problems associated with the wastage of capital and the inefficiency which results in high cost of industrial production and the impact of capacity underutilization on industrial development in these countries. The study proposes some strategies which could be adopted by the LDCs to cope with the problem of excess capacity including Government policy measures and actions, measures at the enterprise level, regional and subregional considerations and strongly recommends the need to implement the programme for the industrial development Decade for Africa (IDDA).

II.4 Technical Assistance and Advisory Services (Development issues and policies)

9. Upon the request of the concerned governments, the Secretariat fielded experts under the Technical Assistance and Advisory Services component of the core programme, to (i) Benin: for the preparation of a national economic recovery plan, 1985-1987, (ii) Mali: for the preparation of the documentation for the country's Second Round-table Conference with Donors and (iii) Rwanda: for the computerization of a short-term forecasting (SAM) model which was started in 1983 by a joint ECA/ADB Expert group.

10. The present "development crisis" in African least developed countries which is characterized by inappropriate policies and the establishment of institutions capable of enabling agriculture to flourish as a foundation for broad national development has been compounded by natural disasters, most especially the drought, which has had a devastating impact on food production. In the light of the dismal

performance of the agricultural sector in all the countries during 1981-1984, the ECA Secretariat, under its core programme, will carry out an indepth study on the food strategies and supply situation in the African LDCs in 1985, to see to what extent the African Regional Food Plan is being implemented and to submit appropriate recommendations on ways and means of improving techniques in food production and enhancing food supply situation in the countries.

III. THE ECA SUBSTANTIVE DIVISIONS' INPUT IN THE AREA OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADVISORY SERVICES

11. As a back stop to the activities of the LDCs Section which executes the core programme, the Substantive Divisions under the ECA Inter-divisional Committee on LDCs, carried out the following activities in favour of the African LDCs:

III.1 Food and Agriculture

12. An ECA Multidisciplinary mission was sent to Chad, in April 1984, to review the situation of the Chadian economy in the light of assistance provided since the International Conference on Chad held in Geneva, in November 1983, to consider the implementation of th recovery programme and to make recommendations for long-term measures. The multidisciplinary team covered the agriculture and food sector during the mission. For Ethiopia (Bale Province) the Secretariat evaluated the Government's ongoing resettlement programmes as part of, and in collaboration with, the FAO project No. UTF/ETH/038 on the Ethiopian Highlands Reclamations Study. In Sao Tome and Principe Information was compiled on the forest resources situation and the existing forest industries, in order to analyse and recommend optimum utilisation of forest resources and to propose projects on forest industries.

13. In Uganda: a comprehensive policy-oriented technical document was prepared which highlighted the state of agrarian reform and rural development in Uganda and the future actions and assistance required to support the country's efforts in rural development. In Rwanda and Burundi, the Secretariat gathered information and data on existing national food security programmes and prepared a report and proposals on an action programme for the establishment of a subregional food security scheme for the CEPGL member countries. In Togo a mission was mounted by the Secretariat to identify and evaluate indigenous and other technologies used by, or available for, women in the handling, processing, preservation and marketing of agricultural products in post harvest activities; to evaluate the existing government policies and efforts towards reduction of post-harvest food losses and to evaluate the project on food losses being undertaken by FAO and other organisations with regard to their impact on women.

III.2 Industry

14. The secretariat has prepared a Directory of Project Profiles on Small Scale Industries which will aid the African LDCs in the launching of production activities. The Directory provides detailed information on the products and types of industries to be created during the Industrial Development Decade and in particular, the information covers the availability of raw materials; necessary services, fixed and recurring capitals; personnel needs; services of acquisition of machinery and materials, etc.

15. With regard to training, representatives of Benin, Burundi, Comoros, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Burkina Fasso attended the meeting on "Promotion of centres for engineering design and manufacturing in the African Region". The objective of the meeting was to assist member States, especially LDCs, to establish or strengthen their own national centres. Participants from Benin, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Togo also took part in the training course on engineering design and manufacturing organized by the ECA in co-operation with the African Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing (ARCEDEM), in Ibadan, Nigeria, from July to October, 1983.

16. Advisory services was provided to Burundi, on its request, in the area of design and establishment of institutions related to industrial development and on mechanisms for promtion of investment and implementation of industrial development projects. Project profiles were prepared on agro-based industries for a donor conference for the economic development of Djibouti. With the co-operation of the PTA secretariat, arrangements had been made for the rehabilitation and technical training in iron and steel development in Ethiopia. Also, assistance is been provided for the rehabilitation and technical training in the iron and steel industry of Uganda with the co-operation of ZISCOSTEEL of Zimbabwe and the preparation of project profiles of Uganda's phosphate fertilizer in the framework of PTA activities. Upon the request of the Uganda Government, the Secretariat is also assisting in the expansion of the Serere Institute which is expected to be converted into a subregional institute and a study is been conducted on the improvement of food technology by the Serere institute.

17. Technical assistance was provided to Somalia on planning the development of small-scale industries. In Chad, the Secretariat had prepared the Terms of Reference on the identification of small-scale industries and project profiles on such enterprise. On request of the Government of Togo, a study on the establishment of a national centre for engineering design and manufacturing has been completed.

18. Activities that are planned include the identification of multinational core indusrrial projects for subregional industrial co-operation:

	Project	LDC-Promoter	Expected s/r[+] industrial co-operation
1.	Manufacture of diesel engine mounted chassis for lorries, trucks and buses	Ethiopia	PTA
2.	Potash exploitation	Ethiopia	PTA
3.	Ammonia complex	Tanzania	PTA
4.	Re-rolling mills for sections and bars for high tension electricity transmission	Rwanda	CEPGL
5.	Manufacture of agricultural tools and implements	Rwanda/Burundi	CEPGL
6.	Pesticide	Rwanda	CEPGL
7.	Iron and steel foundry	Niger	CEPGL
8.	Manufacture of diesel engines for tractors, trucks, lorries and buses	Guinea Niger Sierra Leone Burkina Fasso	ECOWAS
9.	Phosphates	Togo	ECOWAS
10.	Pesticide	Burkina Fasso	ECOWAS

19. On request of the LDCs, the Secretariat will prepare project profiles on small-scale industries for products identified on the basis of specific information provided by the countries. The preparation of project profiles on industrial units for the Pepublic of Chad, as requested by the Government, will be carried out. The project profiles will include small-scale industrial units and the inputs required for the processing units such as raw materials required services fixed and recurring capital; personnel needs skills required services for acquisition of machinery and materials, etc.

+ s/r implies sub-regional.

III.3 Natural Resources

20. A joing mission was mounted to Sierra Leone in November/December 1983 by ECA/MPU and a consultant provided by DTCD at the request of the Sierra Leone Government with a view to assisting the Ministry of Mines in preparing a revised mining policy and legislation. A draft Mineral Resources Development Policy was drawn up and submitted to the Sierra Lone authorities in February, 1984.

21. Assistance to Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Rwanda, Burundi, Sao Tome and Principe, Tanzania and Uganda has been made available for a number of years to develop national capabilities in respect of mineral resources development through the Mineral Resources Development Centres established in the Eastern and Southern African and the Central African subregions whose function it is to serve the interests of member States adhering and supporting these multinational institutions. A continuous promotional drive has been sustained in order to encourage LDCs of these two subregions to participate to these centres and take advantage of the benefits they could derive from their programmes of activities in the implementation of national projects in the mineral sector.

22. Comprehensive training programmes in the field of geophysics, geochemistry, cogeodata, small-scale mining, mineral economies and micro-computer applications in earth sciences were organized and attended by some 250 geoscientists over the last 3 years including a large number of participants from LDCs of the Eastern and Southern African subregion.

23. In the case of Botswana, Ethiopia and Sierra Leone, missions have been concerned with informal sector activities. Efforts were made to determine how the adaptive technology potential in the metal working branch could be mobilized after an adequate study of the problem. In Comoros and Togo, advisory services have been given to the governments to enable them to set up National Commissions for Science and Technology, and a National Centre for Technology specifically for Togo. As for Rwanda, Central African Republic and Mali, a mission was undertaken in order to examine how the recommendations on rural technologies made by the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Science and Technology Development (Nov. 1983) have been applied in these countries. The mission also examined the national legal provisions on Transfer of Technology. The ECA is expected to provide technical assistance to the Central African Republic which will be organizing a meeting on transnational enterprises at its University early in 1985.

24. The Secretariat, with the assistance of the Chinese Government, organized a seminary and study tour for African States in the field of biogas generation, mini-hydro power generation, and solar energy. Rwanda, Burundi and Sudan were among the participating countries. A workshop is to be organized in co-operation with the German Foundation for International Development, and the African Regional Centre for

Technology in November/December 1985 to train African building policy-makers to conduct policy research and formulate policies therefrom. Ethiopia Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania will participate in the workshop which will examine how the metal working branch of the Informal Sector can contribute to the production of agricultural tools, implements and energy-saving devices for food and agriculture.

III.4 Transport and Communications

15. In the area of transport and communications, missions were mounted to the least developed countries in connection with a study on harmonization and co-ordination of the various transport modes especially those modes playing a significant role in the inter-country transport. The objectives of the mission were to establish a rational integrated transport system in Africa to respond to the existing and potential transport demand; to promote development of intra-African trade; and to contribute to the economic and social integration of the African region. The study is staged by sub-region and has covered road systems of least developed countries in Eastern and Southern Africa. The study is currently in progress in ECOWAS member States where all least developed countries will be visited.

16. With regards to the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA), the Secretariat is conducting a series of missions covering the entire African region to collect information on, among others, the physical implementation and financing of projects contained in the first phase programme of UNTACDA; the state of implementation of projects of the second phase both in physical and financial terms; and to find out what action, if any, has been taken to follow-up expressions of interest by donors on the financing of projects made at the last five technical consultative meetings.

17. The following training courses/seminars were arranged by the Secretariat with the participation of LDCs: (i) Port operations seminar (July/August 1984, Odessa, USSR): Burundi, Benin, Sudan, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia and Tanzania; (ii) Railway operations seminar (Addis Ababa, November 1984): Benin, Niger, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Mali and Tanzania; (iii) regional seminar in transport statistics (Addis Ababa, June 1984): Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Gambia, Guinea, Malawi and Niger; (iv) Port operations seminar, (Leningrad, USSR, July/August 1984): Benin, Botswana, Cape Verde, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Chad, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Malawi, Sao Tome and Principe, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda; (v) regional telecommunications seminar in planning of rural road network (Addis Ababa, September 1984): Ethiopia, Gambia, Lesotho, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Uganda; (vi) Third African highway maintenance seminar (Addis Ababa, September 1984): Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Guinea, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Togo and Uganda.

III.5 Public Administration, Management and Manpower Development

28. In the field of Public Administration and Management, 1984 activities were primarily aimed at providing assistance for the enhancement of administrative and managerial capabilities for promoting national development. Advisory services were undertaken, among other countries to Malawi, Gambia, Tanzania and Uganda. The services covered the public sector as a whole with specific areas covering training of local government personnel, survey of public administration problems, review of curriculum and training needs of management training institutions, managerial problems of public enterprises and management training for executives of public enterprises. Institution-building activities continued in 1984 mainly through execution of the second phase of the UNDP-funded project "Improvement of Management Skills Delivery Capability at the Eastern and Southern African Management Institute" (ESAMI) an intergovernmental institution owned by 18 countries of the Eastern and Southern African subregion.

29. Under the sub-programme on development of budgetary and taxation systems the Secretariat organized (in March 1984) in Botswana a technical workshop for African tax administrators on the theme, "issues of tax fraud and evasion, the promotion of tax awareness and techniques of tax legislations". The workshop was attended by the following LDCs: Botswana, Comoros, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Lesotho, Malawi and Somalia. The Secretariat also assisted the Botswana Institute of Administration and Commerce to organise an induction course for Botswana Civil Service officers. In October 1984, another training workshop was organized on the "Management of Public Finances for Development in Socialist Ethiopia" for Ethiopian government officials.

30. The second meeting of the General Assembly of the Association of African Tax Administrators was held in Gaborone, Botswana in March 1984 and was attended by the following LDCs: Botswana, Comoros, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Lesotho, Malawi and Somalia. A seminar on the Harmonized System of facilitation of customs procedures and customs enforcement was organized in collaboration with the Customs Co-operation Council, Belgium (Brussels). The seminar was held in Botswana and attended by participants from Botswana, Ethiopia, Lesotho and Malawi.

31. Under the sub-programme on education and training for development, the 1984 activities focussed on orientation of educational policies, programmes and practices, career guidance and counselling, the management of training and institutional capability development and administration of grants and fellowships. A study on non-formal education for integrated rural development in Lesotho reviewed the status of non formal education and its variants with a view to determining their effectiveness for promoting integrated rural development. Country studies on the impact of, and effectiveness of existing guidance and counselling programmes in Tanzania and Togo placed emphasis on policies, administrative arrangements co-ordination of activities among ministries concerned with guidance and counselling services.

32. A national workshop focussing on approaches to educational planning, data collection and analysis, costing of education, administration and school location, were conducted in Tanzania. Consultative missions with the governments of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Gambia on human resources management machinery were

undertaken and followed up by a workshop conducted in the Gambia in December 1984. The workshop reviewed the status of human resources development in these countries and developed guidelines on manpower policies, organizational structures staffing and data for manpower planning, training and employment planning.

III. 6 International Trade and Finance

33. Within the framework of the West African MULPOC, a study on transit trade and transit facilities was requested mainly by the landlocked and least developed member countries, namely Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso. To undertake the study, the Secretariat mounted a mission to visit the interested countries Niger and Mali and the outlet countries such as Benin, Togo, Ivory Coast and Senegal with a view to identifying the major obstacles to the development of trade between coastal and landlocked countries. A preliminary report has been submitted to the MULPOC and the full report is expected to be completed in 1985.

34. Trade Promotion and Marketing Supply Assessments, Trade Promotion Advisory Services prior to the study tours and field marketing missions were conducted (with direct participation of LDC's business executives) to promote African products in other developing regions and to identify supply sources for African imports.

35. The following training events were serviced (i) Joint ECA/ITC/PRODEC Trade Promotion and Export Marketing Course 1982 17 trainees from Botswana, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda. (ii) Joint ECA/ITC/PRODEC Trade Promotion and Export Marketing Techniques 1983 10 trainees from Botswana, Burundi, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda. (iii) Joint ECA ITC PRODEC/ETHMEX Seminar on Import Management 1982 11 trainees from Botswana, Ethiopia, Malawi, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda. (iv) Joint Ethio-Kenya Course on Trade Promotion and Export Marketing Techniques 1983 - 0 Ethiopian trainees were involved (v) Ethiopian National Seminar for Trade Attachés, 1984 15 trainees were involved, (vi) Ethiopian National Seminar on Structures and Function of the Preferential Trade Area of Eastern and Southern African countries (PTA) 1984 about 100 participants.

III. 7 Population

36. Advisory services were rendered to Malawi, Botswana, Niger and Sao Tome and Principe in the evaluation/analysis of their latest census data. In this regard also, Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania were advised in the formulation and implementation of relevant population policies and in the integration of population variables in development planning. Assistance was also provided to Sudan in the analysis of its latest census data. Two seminars were organized on the integration of population in development planning in Burundi and Chad. During 1985, advisory services will be provided to Djibouti and Sudan in the evaluation and analysis of their census/survey data and their vital registration systems. A national seminar in Djibouti will also be serviced. A regional training workshop on population projections will be conducted for participants from Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda, Burkina Faso, Botswana, Central African Republic, Gambia, Lesotho, Mali, Sierra Leone, Togo and Tanzania.

III. 8 ECA/ATRCW on the role of women in development

37. According to para. 13 of the SNPA appropriate measures have to be taken to pursue the objectives of strengthening women's equal participation both as agents and as beneficiaries in all sectors and at all levels of development planning monitoring and implementation. In that context, the ECA/ATRCW had undertaken a series of activities in the African LDCs during 1983-1984. Needs assessment mission have been mounted to Chad, Djibouti Ethiopia Guinea, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Seminars on income generating activities for women were conducted in Benin and Burkina Fasso. Assistance in project formulation and preparation primarily of development programmes with women's participation, were provided to Burundi, Cape Verde, Djibouti Guinea Bissau, Rwanda and Togo. Study on the status of women in development in Central African Republic, Comoros, Djibouti and Rwanda.

38. Other technical assistance and advisory services were provided to Botswana - information seminar on national machineries Burkina Fasso - study on the status and participation of women in development and a survey on the role of women and their contribution to production processing and marketing of food items Burundi - seminar on family planning and a study on training and employment opportunities for out-of-school girls in CEPGL countries (Burundi, Rwanda, Zaire) Cape Verde - two training seminars for staff of women's organization and 10 months training fellowship to five members of the Executive Bureau Chad - study on evaluation of training programmes in co-operative management Comoros - advisory services on how women can cater rural development programmes to their own real needs Ethiopia - development of pottery (aimed at improving technology) and indigenous construction materials and skills development of the Tethleham training centre, and training in optimal nutritional use of food obtained from food for work activities.

39. In 1985, the ECA/ATRCW will carry out a fact finding mission to Sao Tome and principe. In future, the centre's activities will give priority to drought affected countries and will focus on key areas identified in the Arusha strategies i e. food and agriculture, industry environment, science and technology, water and energy, human resources development including employment, health and education.

III. 9 Environmental situation

40. The component of the Secretariat's programme in this area that are of relevance to the LDCs include the preparation of guidelines on national capabilities for pollution control from basic industries. The objective of the programme is to identify environmental infrastructure and capabilities for the control and management of industrial wastes the volume of industrial processing activities and to make appropriate recommendations to the ECA regional policy-making organs (CM/1106). Advisory services missions were mounted to Sudan, Central African Republic and Equatorial Guinea to assess major environmental problems with the view to making appropriate recommendations for the establishment of national institutional machineries and other needs, especially manpower requirements for the execution of environmental projects. This project is an on-going activity in 1985 and during the 1986-1987 biennium and, upon the request of every LDC government the Secretariat will provide advisory services, within the limits of the available funds.

IV. FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS ON RESOLUTIONS 503 (XIX) AND 529 (XIX)

IV.1 Resolution 503 (XIX) measures for the effective implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action in the African LDCs

41. In accordance with operative paragraph 1 of Resolution 503 (XIX), the following countries had organized Roundtable Conferences: (1) Comoros 2-4 July, 1984; (2) Gambia, 27-30 November 1984; (3) Guinea-Bissau, 21-23 May 1984; and Lesotho, 14-17 May 1984. Other countries whose Roundtable meetings are tentatively scheduled before the Global Mid-term Review in September/October 1985, are: Burkina Fasso (April 1985) Central African Republic (mid-1985) Guinea (first half of 1985) Niger (mid-1985) Sierra Leone (first half of 1985-mini Roundtable) and Togo (May 1985). All the African LDCs have designated National Focal Points for the monitoring and follow-up of the implementation of the SNPA at the country level. Those LDCs that have organized review meetings, have established local aid coordination groups for the follow-up of commitments made by the donor community at their respective Roundtables.

IV.2 Resolution 529 (XIX) Substantial assessment of Roundtable and Consultative Group Meetings

42. As part of the preparatory process for the Global Mid-term Review Meeting in 1985, the UNDP convened a meeting of African LDCs Ministers responsible for cooperation, planning and development to evaluate the Roundtable Experience in the African region and to make recommendations aimed at improving the RT process. The meeting was held in Cotonou, Benin (with the government of Benin as host) and was attended by 15 African countries, (14 of which were LDCs) UNCDF, FAO, the West African Development Bank and the Guaranty Fund of OCAM. The Ministers adopted the following recommendations relating to: (i) the definition and setting up of an institutional framework as a prerequisite for the launching of a Roundtable (ii) establishment of a permanent mechanism that takes as a whole all sequences of the Roundtable, (iii) the strengthening of the means of support to the host government of RTs (iv) the constant establishment of an interrelation between Roundtable conferences and objectives of the national plan (v) the modification and strengthening of the process to better fulfill donors and developing countries objectives (vi) the improvement of the effectiveness of UNDP role as lead agency and as provider of critical technical cooperation.

43. In the same context the ECA had prepared Guidelines for the Evaluation and Assessment of Review Meetings held in African LDCs in the context of the SNPA in the 1980s. The Guidelines will enable the respective National Focal Points to prepare country specific assessment of their Roundtable Conference Consultative Group Meetings. The Secretariat had also prepared a regional evaluation and assessment of the implementation of the SNPA in the African region (refer II.2 above).

V. CONFERENCES/MEETINGS AND SEMINARS

V.1 Fourth meeting of the conference of Ministers of African LDCs

43. In the context of sub-programme 3.5 of the ECA core programme, the Secretariat organized and serviced the third meeting of the intergovernmental committee of experts which prepared the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries (Addis Ababa, May 1984). The Conference reviewed the economic and social conditions, major problems encountered and policies pursued by the African LDCs during 1981-1983 along with an evaluation of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) during the same period. This was followed by the consideration of a study on pricing policies in African least developed countries which dealt with measures to improve incentive schemes for upgrading productivity and increase output in the agricultural sector ensure better investment resource allocation improve external and domestic terms of trade and improvement in price formation techniques and the strengthening of institutional capabilities for efficient price control and monitoring.

45. On the basis of the above, the Conference adopted three resolutions: Resolutions 502 (XIX) on pricing policies in African least developed countries; 503 (XIX): on measures for the effective implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action in African LDCs; and 529 (XIX) on the substantial assessment of the Roundtable and Consultative Group Meetings in the African region (refer to preceeding section on follow-up actions on these resolutions).

V.2 Review meetings

46. Upon the invitations of the concerned governments, the Secretariat participated in four Roundtable Conferences which were organized by Comoros (2-4 July 1984), Gambia (27-30 November 1984), Guinea-Bissau (21-27 May 1984) and Lesotho (14-17 May 1984).

V.3 Seminar on the development of foreign trade in African least developed countries

47. UNCTAD, in co-operation with ECA and the Nairobi Trade Centre, organized a "seminar on the Development of Foreign Trade in the African Least Developed Countries: constraints and opportunities3 in Nairobi, 21 January - 5 February 1985. The seminar was attended by participants from 10 English speaking African LDCs: Botswana, Ethiopia, Gambia, Lesotho, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The ECA Secretariat attended the seminar and presented two papers on "The Development Crisis in the African LDCs", and "Trade among Sub-Saharan African Countries: current flows and future prospects".

VI. 1985 ACTIVITIES AND THE 1986-1987 BIENNIUM WORK PROGRAMME (SUB-PROGRAMME 3 - LDCs)

48. Under the core programme, the Secretariat will prepare the "Review of Economic and Social Conditions in African LDCs 1984-1985" (sub-programme element 3.7) and the "Progress Report on the Implementation of the Substantial New Programme of

Action in the African region, 1984-1985" (Sub-programme 3.3). A study on "Food Strategies in the African LDCs" will be carried out which will examine to what extent the African Regional Food Plan is been implemented in these countries and an analysis of the food supply situation against a background of the devastating drought and other natural disasters which has spread across the African region (Sub-programme 3.4). The outputs of all these sub-programme elements will be presented to the Fifth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts and the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of Ministers of African LDCs during the second quarter of 1986.

49. With respect to sub programme 3.1: Technical assistance and advisory services upon the request of UNDP, the Secretariat provided assistance (in March 1985) to the government of Sao Tome and Principe in the area of National Accounts, as part of the preparation of the documentations for the country's Roundtable Conference which is scheduled for sometime in 1985.

VI.2 1986-1987 work programme

50. In 1986, sub-programme elements 3.2 and 3.3 will be executed covering the time span, 1984-1985. As for sub-programme element 3.4 on in-depth studies, the Secretariat plans to carry out a study on "The Implications of Structural Adjustment and Stabilization Programmes on Medium and Long-term Growth and Development in the African Least Developed Countries" which will be presented to the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of Ministers of African LDCs during the Second Quarter of 1987 along with the outputs of sub-programme elements 3.2 and 3.3.

51. If funds are available during the biennium, the ECA Secretariat, in co-operation with UNCTAD, will undertake country case studies on pricing policies in individual African LDCs. A project document has already been submitted to UNDP in accordance with UN Resolution 50/(XIX) adopted by the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the African LDCs. Funding is also been sought for another project study on "Domestic Resource Mobilization for development financing in African LDCs", which if acquired is expected to enable the Secretariat to conduct studies in individual African LDCs on the subject during the 1986-1987 biennium.